

The 2009-2010 Klopsteg seminar series in
SCIENCE IN HUMAN CULTURE presents:

LINDSAY SMITH

SHC and Anthropology, Northwestern

“Bring Them Back Alive’: Negotiating Genetics and Identity in Post-dictatorship Argentina”

In the wake of the repression of the 1976-1983 dictatorship, Argentine women rallied physicians, scientists, and international agencies to develop new technologies to identify and be reunited with the disappeared. I compare two groups engaged in this process: one searching for their kidnapped grandchildren, the other working to identify the bodies of the 30,000 disappeared. Drawing on ethnographic research, I explore the politicization of the category of the disappeared person along-side ongoing debates about a national “right to identity.” Tracing contemporary identity-work, I offer an account of the coproduction of forensic genetics, biogenetic kinship, and post-conflict democracy in Argentina.

LINDSAY SMITH is a postdoctoral fellow in the Science and Human Culture program. She received her PhD in anthropology at Harvard University. Her research focuses on the social and political aspects of DNA and forensic science in post-conflict settings. Her book manuscript, *Subversive Genes*, examines the social meanings of DNA technologies in Argentina as they are used to reunite families torn apart during the dirty war.



Monday
January 25, 2010
4:00 - 5:30 pm
Hagstrum Room
university hall 201
Evanston Campus
reception to follow
La identidad no se impone